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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,031	03/31/2004	Hiroki Goko	030712-36	3838
22204	7590	07/11/2007		
NIXON PEABODY, LLP 401 9TH STREET, NW SUITE 900 WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2128			EXAMINER MEMULA, SURESH	
			ART UNIT 2825	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/11/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/813,031

Applicant(s)

GOKO ET AL.

Examiner

Suresh Memula

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                            |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

### DETAILED ACTION

This office action is a response to the RCE filed on 06/15/2007. Claims 1-5 are pending.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)** as being anticipated by US Pub. No. 2004/0107408 to Sano et al. (Sano).

3. As to Claim 1,

a first step for determining a number of clocks different in delay amount (Paragraphs 0001, 0041, 0051, 0074, 0174; FIG. 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17, 20, 24, 42-45, 49, 51-52), which are used for verification of a circuit design of the semiconductor integrated circuit upon the circuit design thereof (Paragraphs 0089, 0093; FIG. 2, 16, 22, 36), and determining delays in the clocks on the basis of pre-set conditions for constraints of timings (Paragraphs 0032-0034, 0176; FIG. 2, 21);

a second step for allocating clocks supplied to respective circuits (Paragraphs 0013, 0080, 0160, 0174, 0183, 0191-0192, 0215, 0223, 0231, 0240; FIG. 21); and

a third step for optimizing timings on the basis of a list (Paragraphs 0002, 0062, 0066, 0081, 0158, 0174, 0184; FIG. 2, 21) obtained by the timing constraint conditions (Paragraphs 0032-0034, 0176; FIG. 2, 21) and the clock allocation (Paragraphs 0013, 0080, 0160, 0174, 0183, 0191-0192, 0215, 0223, 0231, 0240; FIG. 21) and determining whether results of analyses of the respective timings correspond to violation of the constraints of timings (Paragraphs 0054-0059, 0179, 0206, 0215), wherein the

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optimization of the timings is repeated according to the constraint violation of the constraints of timings (Abstract; Paragraphs 0050, 0061, 0065, 0173, 0179, 0182) and at least the first and second steps are performed prior to a layout design of the semiconductor integrated circuit (FIG. 21).

4. As to Claim 2, a fourth step for generating the clocks different in the delay amount (Paragraphs 0001, 0041, 0051, 0074, 0174; FIG. 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17, 20, 24, 42-45, 49, 51-52) for the verification of a layout design of the semiconductor integrated circuit (Paragraphs 0089, 0093; FIG. 2, 16, 22, 36); a fifth step for adjusting skews for each of said clocks (Abstract; Paragraphs 0002, 0015, 0032); a sixth step for adjusting delays respectively included in the clocks to the determined clock delays upon the layout design (Paragraphs 0001, 0032-0034, 0041, 0051, 0074, 0174; FIG. 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17, 20-21, 24, 42-45, 49, 51-52), respectively; seventh step for making an adjustment to a layout that satisfies the timing constraint conditions upon the layout design (Paragraphs 0071, 0085, 0089, 0093) and determining whether analytical results of the respective timings correspond to the constraint violation (Paragraphs 0054-0059, 0089, 0093, 0179, 0206, 0215; FIG. 21), wherein the layout adjustment is repeated according to the constraint violation (Abstract; Paragraphs 0050, 0061, 0065, 0173, 0179, 0182; FIG. 21).

5. As to Claim 3, adjusting the delay of each of the clocks again according to the constraint violation when the constraint violation exists in the third step (Paragraphs 0001-0002, 0032-0034, 0041, 0051, 0062, 0066, 0074, 0081, 0158, 0174, 0184; FIG. 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17, 20-21, 24, 42-45, 49, 51-52).

6. As to Claim 4, a step for adjusting delays set for said clocks according to the constraint violation when the constraint violation occurs in the seventh step (Paragraphs 0001-0002, 0032-0034, 0041, 0051, 0062, 0066, 0071, 0074, 0081, 0085, 0089, 0093, 0158, 0174, 0184; FIG. 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17, 20-21, 24, 42-45, 49, 51-52).

7. As to Claim 5, wherein adjusting the delays comprises adding an delay at a starting point where data is outputted (Abstract; Paragraphs 0007, 0050, 0061, 0077, 0173), and determining the clock delays according to the difference between the added

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value and the cycle of the clock (Paragraphs 0001, 0016, 0041, 0051, 0074, 0174; FIG. 5-6, 8-9, 12, 17, 20, 24, 42-45, 49, 51-52).

***Response to Applicant Remarks***

8. Applicant's remarks are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

***Conclusion***

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suresh Memula whose telephone number is (571) 272-8046. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm EST.

10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on (571) 272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Suresh Memula  
Art Unit 2825  
July 4, 2007

PAUL DINH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

